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Book Review

The Western Journal of Medicine does not review all books sent by publishers, although information about new books received is printed elsewhere in the journal as space permits. Prices quoted are those given by the publishers.

Trauma in Children

Edited by Randall E. Marcus, MD, Coordinator of Trauma Services and Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and Attending Orthopedic Surgeon, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, Cleveland. Aspen Publishers, Inc, 1600 Research Blvd, Rockville, MD 20850, 1986. 265 pages, \$54.

Trauma in Children is a 265 page, one volume book edited by Randall Marcus with 20 other contributors. The chapters discuss trauma in children by anatomic regions including the head and central nervous system, chest, abdomen, genito-urinary region, hand, spine and face. There are also chapters on fractures, soft tissue injuries and complications of musculoskeletal injuries, as well as introductory chapters on initial management and general principles of trauma management in children. The last two chapters of the book address psychological and legal implications of trauma.

Each chapter is an independent discussion of a topic by professionals with personal experience in the field. In general, each chapter provides an overview with more extensive discussions of the common or serious injuries. The depth of discussion varies among chapters but generally is fairly superficial. Someone desiring to understand current management of a specific fracture, for instance, would find a much more complete discussion of the topic in a specialty text.

There are some distracting editorial shortcomings such as mislabeled figures. There are very few pictorial examples of long-term followup or even final results of fracture treatment, an important consideration in pediatric fractures. Omissions occur in other chapters. For instance, there is no mention of child abuse in the chapter "Legal Considerations in the Treatment of Trauma in Children."

The specific topic of trauma in children has not been well addressed previously in book form in this country. This book is a good survey of pediatric trauma and crosses the conventional boundaries of medicine. It would be of value to someone who occasionally deals in pediatric trauma who would like to become familiar with some of the current concepts. It would also be of value to the trauma subspecialist to introduce the principles of treatment of pediatric trauma in other disciplines or anatomic regions.

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